THE ANCESTRY OF
MOSES LEAVITT and LYDIA ANN JOY NORRIS

Compiled by H.W. Norris
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THE ANCESTRY OF MOSES LEAVITT NORRIS AND LYDIA ANN (JOY) NORRIS

The children of this pair may well boast of a thorogoing, typical, pre-revolutionary, New England ancestry. Each main and contributing line to the family stock can be traced back to the early settlers of New England of the early seventeenth century, or in a few cases, only to the early part of the eighteenth century. Rockingham County, N.H., was the locality where the ancestral stock found lodgment and development.

The early settlers of New Hampshire came mostly from the southeast counties of England. A comparison of place names in southeast New Hampshire with those in southeast England shows many correspondences: Portsmouth, Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Brentwood, Barrington, Strafford (Stratford), Derry, Dover, Rochester, Kingston, Chichester, Epping, NewMarket, etc.

Then, too, the actual history of many of these early settlers shows that they came from various points in southeast England.

Moses Leavitt and Lydia Ann Joy Norris (1861)

In 1603 the SPEEDWELL and DISCOVERER commanded by Martin Pring entered Piscataqua river. Probably English fishing vessels visited the coast earlier. On July 15, 1605, De Champlain visited Piscataqua Bay, and discovered the Isles of Shoals, landing at what is probably Odiorne's Point in Rye. It is believed that in 1606 one of Champlain's vessels anchored in Rye Harbor. In 1614 Captain John Smith entered Piscataqua River and made the first map of the coast. He may be said to have discovered the New Hampshire coast.

In 1620 James I. granted to the Council of Plymouth a charter embracing the territory from the St. Lawrence river to the region of Philadelphia, and the continent ocean to ocean. The Council granted Aug. 10, 1620, to Sir Ferdinand Gorges and Capt. William Mason all lands between the Kennebec and Merrimac Rivers, reaching sixty miles inland, with all islands within five leagues of shore, called the Province of Maine.

In 1629 Gorges and Mason divided their tract, Mason taking the land between the Merrimac and the Piscataqua, to be called New Hampshire; Gorges retained that between the Piscataqua and the Kennebec.

David Thomson of Plymouth, Eng., is said to have been the first bona-fide settler. He built a house at Odiorne's Point in Rye. In 1626 he removed to Boston Harbor, on an island still called Thomson's Island. However, the common statement is that the first settlements in the state were at Portsmouth and Dover in 1623, the

first settlers being chiefly fishermen. In 1623 Edward and Wm. Hilton settled at what is now called Dover Neck, ten miles up the river.

From about 1630-1635 a considerable number of settlers, sent over by Mason, came to the region of Portsmouth. In the early days of settlement no women were allowed as residents, but from 1630-1635 twenty-two women came over, most of them apparently unmarried, but one writer of the period says: "for maids they are soone gonne in this countrie". Of these women we know almost nothing. They came over in the Pied Cow and went from the boat into homes as wives.

Capt. Mason, the original patentee, named the territory New Hampshire from the shire of Hants in southeast England. In 1641 New Hampshire was annexed to Massachusetts, and in 1679 separated.

Unlike Massachusetts New Hampshire was not founded by Puritans, nor like Virginia by the Cavalier element, but rather by the peasantry of Southeast England, and in that sense by representative English stock.

By the year 1680 only four towns had been established: Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton. The first Congregational church was founded in 1638 at Hampton, the Rev. Stephen Bachilor being pastor. The second Congregational church was established in the same year at Exeter, the Rev. John Wheelwright, pastor.

Under the Mason and Gorges grant there came to this territory lying between the Piscataqua River on the northeast and the Merrimac River on the southwest a rather homogeneous people, nearly all from southeast England. To the new habitat they transferred the customs, types of dwellings, arts, crafts, of southeast England. And here in the same region down almost to our own day these customs have persisted with but little modification. Until within a few years very little of foreign immigration has touched this territory, and here still is to be sought the purest types of old New England families. For nearly two centuries the life of southeast New Hampshire suffered little if any influx of life from the outside, and in a sort of isolation Yankee peculiarities became accentuated. The first cattle were introduced into New England at Plymouth, Mass., in 1624, and it was not until their coming to New Hampshire that any great agricultural progress could be made, or any extensive transportation of materials other than by water could take place. Hence the early settlers of New Hampshire were compelled to keep close to the shores, communication with the rest of New England being chiefly by boat.

Considerable has been said of the laxity of morals of the early New Hampshire settlers. This charge, if true, may possibly be partially explained by certain practices of the early days. The pioneer settlers of New Hampshire, induced to come over by Mason, were mostly men. To procure wives for these men, women of whose antecedents and character the historian leaves us in ignorance, were brought over in special shiploads. Courtship was brief, and love-making did not abound in expressions of sentiment. The bride frequently stepped from the boat's rail into the arms of her husband, who until a few moments previously had never seen her. This may explain why the family names of so many of the first wives in the colony are unknown.

Those were the days of the spinning-wheel, the wool card, the flax hetchel, the flax brake, and the flax wheel.

The early settlers came from parts of England where cider and perry were household beverages, and soon thriving orchards of apple and pear abounded. Cider mills became important neighborhood institutions.

Pine knot torches and tallow candles furnished most of the artificial light. The colonial lanterns were at first without glass, but made of sheet iron with

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perforations to allow escape of light.

Oxen everywhere carried on the heavier draft work of the farm.

The type of dwelling which persisted for two centuries in eastern New England was brought from southeast England, and represented the house of the English common people. We see these old houses everywhere in southeast New Hampshire. Out on Cape Ann in Massachusetts we find some of the best examples of the same type.

The great open fireplace formed the point about which the home life centered. Here the cooking was done, in the "Dutch oven" before the open fire, or in the great brick oven at the side of the main fireplace. One of the great chimneys consumed a vast quantity of brick in its construction, and huge quantities of wood vanished in smoke up its capacious throat. Imperfect heating necessitated the bed-warming pans, soapstones, and in the sleighs and at church foot-stoves were a great comfort in the rigorous winters.

Those were the days of rigorous living and presumably high thinking. Wild beasts disputed with man the possession of the forests, and everywhere the lurking Indian added a terror of uncertainty to the strenuous life of the times.

Yet large families and longevity were characteristic.

Prominent among the families of southeastern New Hampshire of the early years we find: Austen, Berry, Batchelder, Brewer, Bland, Brackett, Cotton, Caverly, Drake, Dow, Folsom, Gilman, Gove, Gordon, Hussey, James, Lane, Leavitt, Locke, Marston, Norris, Parshley, Page, Robie, Sanborn, Sleeper, Sloper, Shaw, Towle, and in these the Norris-Joy stock has its sources.

NICHOLAS[1] NORRIS was in Hampton as early as Nov. 21, 1663, when he married Sarah, daughter of Moses and Alice Coxe. Tradition has it that he came from Ireland as a stowaway at 14 years of age. It seems more probable that he was born in one of the southeastern counties of England about the year 1640. He lived in Exeter 57 years and is supposed to have died in 1721. He was a soldier for a brief period in 1696. He was a tailor and planter by occupation, and the father of nine children.

Of his father-in-law, MOSES COXE, little is known. He was probably born in England, possibly of the same family with Wm. Cox of Pemiquid, Me. He lived in Hampton, and died in 1687 at the age of 93. His wife, Alice, was drowned in 1657.

MOSES[2] NORRIS, son of Nicholas, born Aug. 14, 1670, lived in Exeter all his life; the date of his death is uncertain. He married, March 4, 1692, Ruth (1670-), daughter of Samuel (1639-1700) and Mary (Roby) Folsom. Eight children were born to this marriage. Moses Norris served as a soldier in 1696.

SAMUEL FOLSOM was the son of John (1615-1681) and Mary (Gilman) Folsom. John Folsom and wife came from Hingham, Eng., where Adam the father of John Folsom lived, to Boston, Mass. on the ship Diligence of Ipswich, Eng., Aug. 10, 1638, and proceeded to Hingham, Mass. They went to Exeter about 1650, probably. They came to America, it was said, because of ecclesiastical difficulties.

MARY GILMAN was the daughter of Edward and Mary (Clark) Gilman of Norfolk Co., Eng.

MARY ROBIE FOLSOM, wife of Samuel, was the daughter of Judge Henry and Ruth Robie. Henry Robie at the age of 21, came from England in 1639 to Dorchester, Mass.; to Hampton, N.H. in 1650 (?). As will be seen later he contributed a second line to the Norris-Joy stock thru his son Samuel.

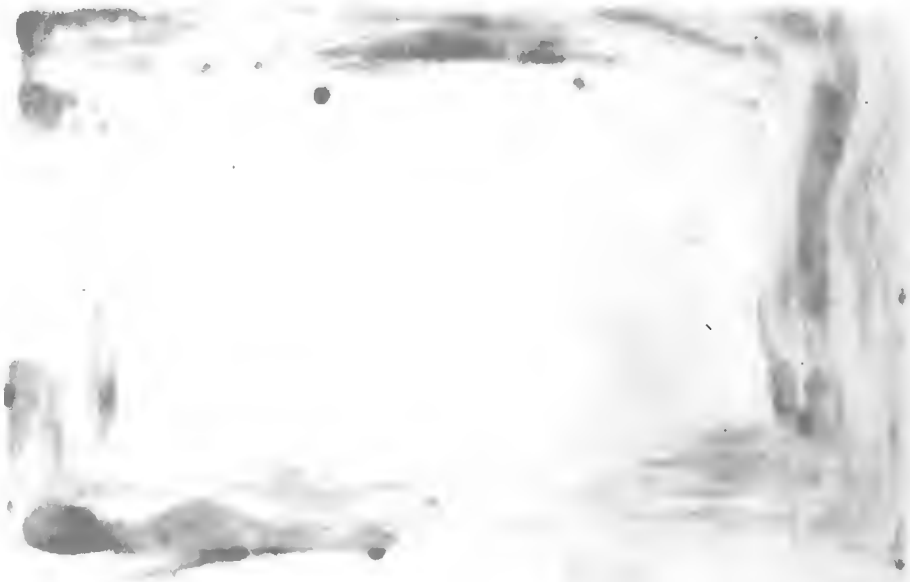
The Folsoms:

Roger Foulsham, of Necten, Norfolk Co., Eng. (1534 date of will).
William Foulsham ---Agnes Smith (of Besthorpe)
Adam Foulsham---Emma --- (Will dated 1565, Besthorpe)
Adam Foulsham---Grace---
(Hingham, Eng. baptized 1560, died 1630)
Adam Foulsham---Agnes---
(Hingham, Eng., will dated 1627)
a.John (supposed to be the one who came to Hingham, Mass.)
b.Adam
c.Peter.

JAMES[3] NORRIS (1700(?)-1768) was born in Exeter and lived on reaching manhood in what was in 1741 set off as Epping. He was a farmer and miller and owned much land. In 1724 he was a soldier and scouted for Indians near Lake Winnepesaukee. He was prominent in town and church affairs, serving as moderator and selectman repeatedly. He married (1) Mary---, who died Sept. 19, 1766; (2) Mrs. Alice Mitchell. He died Dec. 20, 1768. To the first marriage were born 15 children.

MOSES[4] NORRIS was born Jan. 20, 1732, and died before May 29, 1776, when his widow was appointed administratrix on his estate. He married Susanna Gordon (Oct.30, 1743-Oct. 23, 1824), daughter of Daniel Gordon (1704-1786) of Epping, and lived in Nottingham, N.H. In 1773 and 1774 he purchased land in Pittsfield, then a part of Chichester, but before he had time to occupy these purchases he died. Mrs. Norris

Old House, Pittsfield, N.H., built by Moses Norris[5]



and children moved to Pittsfield. She married (2) Nathan White. The spring near which her house on the "upper city" road was situated is still known as the "Granny White Spring". To her first husband she bore five children. She had the reputation of being a witch, and one of her relatives who staid with her some time in her later years said she had ample opportunity to learn all about the Black Art from Granny White.

The Gordon Line.

ALEXANDER[1] GORDON, who came to America in 1651 and to Exeter in 1654, is said to have been a Scotch soldier of Charles II, taken prisoner by the Parliamentarians and exiled to America. In 1663 he married Mary Lysson (Listen?), daughter of Nicholas Lysson of Exeter.

Their son, THOMAS[2] GORDON (1678-1762), married in 1692 Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Harriman of Haverhill, Mass. and lived in Brentwood.

DANIEL[3] GORDON (1704-1786) of Epping, Raymond and Chester, married Susanna--- (1700-1786). Their daughter, Susanna (1743-1824) married (1) Moses[4] Norris; (2) Nathan White. Her brother, DANIEL[4] GORDON, was captain in the regiment of Col. Tash in the Revolutionary War. Her father, Daniel Gordon, Sr., was also in the war. There seem to have been a number of Daniel Gordons from New Hampshire in the Revolutionary War, all probably closely related.

MOSES[5] NORRIS, oldest son of Moses and Susanna Gordon Norris, was born in Nottingham, Sept. 3, 1762, and died in Pittsfield, Aug. 9, 1848. He married May 3, 1787, Comfort (1763-1835), daughter of Benjamin and Esther Towle Leavitt of Hampton Falls. He settled on the farm now (1915) occupied by his grandson, Brackett Woodbury Norris, a tract of land that seems to have been cleared first by his brother-in-law, Reuben Towle Leavitt. An old house erected by him on the farm, at the spot now called the "old cellar", was later removed to the village of Pittsfield, and is now occupied (1915) by Alpheus Young. The large house erected later was burned in 1889.

Moses[5] Norris was a man of sterling integrity and held in great respect by his neighbors. In his later years he lived in the family of his son Brackett. After the premature death of the latter, interested relatives endeavored to persuade the old man to disinherit the widow and her two little ones. The reply of the old man was characteristic: "I told Brackett what I'd do and I'll do't." He well knew the hardships of pioneer life. By the untimely death of his father he had been left the head of the family when a mere boy. He related that he cultivated a crop one year with a wooden hoe. Upon him fell the burden of the manual work on the farm in Nottingham (or Raymond). In his last illness one of his sons was trying to comfort him with the thought that he ought to be willing to die, as he had lived a long and satisfactory life. The aged man looked up and replied: "Life is desirable".

Of his seven children three were sons. In front of the spot where the house that was destroyed by fire stood, there are three elm trees, set out one by each of his sons, True, Brackett Leavitt, and Moses, Jr.

A grandson of True, True Livingston Norris, son of Arthur F. L. Norris, is editor of the Portsmouth Daily Evening Times, and a man of national reputation.

Another grandson of True, son of Trueworthy Norris, George Washington Norris, has been a lawyer in Boston and Woburn for many years, and now lives in Woburn.

Moses Jr., born Sept, 16, 1799 in Pittsfield, graduated at Dartmouth in 1828. He practiced law and represented his native town in the legislature 1837-40, being elected speaker in the latter year. He was a member of the governor's council in

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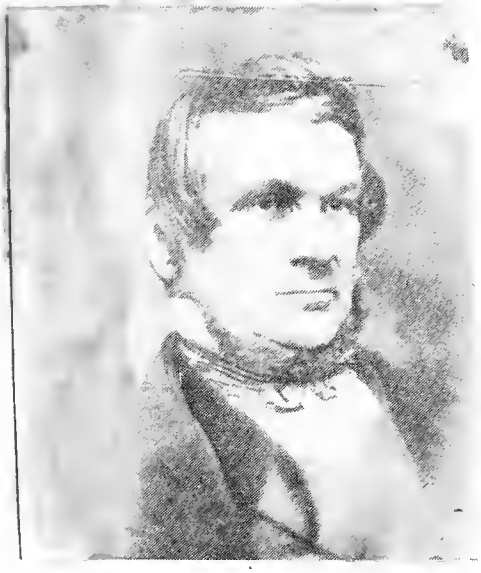

Hon. Moses Norris

1841, again representative in 1842; elected to Congress in 1843, re-elected in 1845; again member of the state legislature and speaker in 1847; re-elected to Congress in 1848, and chosen U.S. Senator to serve the six years beginning March 4, 1849. But for the opposition of Jefferson Davis, it is said, he would have represented his country at the Court of St. James. He died in Washington, Jan. 11, 1855, some say heartbroken because of his failure to receive the ministry to England. His grave in the cemetery at Pittsfield, N.H., is indicated only by a simple marker with these words: "Uncle Moses". Frederick Douglass in his reminiscences gives a very interesting account of his own experiences on a lecture trip to Pittsfield in the "Forties", and his friendly treatment at the hands of Moses Norris, altho the latter had no sympathy with the abolitionists.

BRACKETT LEAVITT[6] NORRIS, son of Moses and Comfort Leavitt Norris was born in Pittsfield, Nov. 20, 1795, and died Dec. 11, 1842. He was a farmer and lived on the farm ancestral. He married (1) Betsey Lane in 1827, who died a few years later without children; (2) March 24, 1836, Eunice (1807-1889), daughter of Thomas and Mary Lane Berry. To this marriage were born two children: Moses Leavitt and Brackett Woodbury.

MOSES LEAVITT[7] NORRIS was born April 19, 1837, and married Sept, 21, 1861 Lydia Ann, daughter of Lewis and Ann Parshley Joy.

The Leavitt Element in the Norris Stock.

THOMAS[1] LEAVITT settled in Exeter in 1639 or earlier. He married in 1644 Isabel (Bland) Austen, daughter of Joshua and Joanna Bland of Colchester, Eng., and widow of Francis Austen. Their son, ARETAS[2] LEAVITT (1646-1739), married Aug. 1, 1678, Ruth Sleeper (1650-), daughter of Thomas Sleeper (1616?-1696), who in 1647 married in Hampton Joanna----(-1703).

THOMAS[3] LEAVITT (1686-1761), son of Aretas and Ruth Sleeper Leavitt, married on Nov. 24, 1714, Elizabeth Locke (1694-1776).

The ancestry of Elizabeth Locke is somewhat uncertain. John[1] Locke of London, Eng., who in 1623 married Christian French, is supposed to be the father of John[2] Locke who came to America in 1644, Dover, New Castle, and finally Hampton. He in 1652 married Elizabeth, daughter of William Berry, first settler of Hampton. Their son, Nathaniel[3] Locke (1661-1734) married on Jan. 17, 1688, Dorothy Blake (1663-1737), daughter of Jasper and Deborah (Dalton) Blake of Hampton. Jasper Blake (--1674), "mariner", settled in Hampton in 1650. He married Deborah Dalton (--1678), who is supposed to have been the sister of the Rev. Timothy Dalton, who came with him from England. To Nathaniel and Dorothy Blake Locke were born nineteen children, one of whom is supposed to be Elizabeth who married Thomas[3] Leavitt.

BENJAMIN[4] LEAVITT (1732-1805), son of Thomas and Elizabeth Locke Leavitt, married on Dec. 6, 1753, Esther Towle, daughter of Philip and Lydia (Dow) Towle. Their daughter Comfort married Moses[6] Norris, as previously noted.

The Towles.

PHILIP[1] TOWLE, ancestor of all the Towles of New England, came to Hampton as early as 1657. On Nov. 12, 1657, he married Isabella Austen, daughter of Isabella Bland by her first husband. The ancestry of Isabella Bland has been noted already.

CALEB[2] TOWLE (1678-1763), son of the fore-going, married Apr. 19, 1698, Zipporah Brackett (1680-1756), daughter of Capt. Anthony and Susannah Drake Brackett (1652-1719). Capt. Anthony Brackett, of Portsmouth and Falmouth, was the son of Anthony Brackett of Portsmouth, who is believed to have been an immigrant in 1623. Susannah

House built by Thomas Berry[6] in 1802 (1914)

Drake was the daughter of Abraham and Jane Drake of Hampton. Abraham Drake was the son of Robert Drake, of Essex, Eng., who came to America in 1643.

PHILIP[3] TOWLE (1698-1785), son of Caleb and Zipporah Brackett Towle, married Mch. 4, 1724, Lydia Dow (1700-1766), daughter of Jabez and Esther (Shaw) Dow. Their daughter, Esther Towle, married Benjamin Leavitt, as above stated.

The Dows.

JOHN[1] DOW, of Tylner, Eng., Norfolk Co., died in 1561. His son, THOMAS[2] DOW, of Tylner and Runham, married Margaret----. To them was born HENRY[3] DOW, of Runham, who married Elizabeth----. HENRY[4] DOW (1608?-1659), son of Henry and Elizabeth Dow, married in 1631 Joane, widow of Roger Nudd, of Ormsby, Eng., and emigrated to America, going first to Watertown, Mass., and later to Hampton, N.H., in 1643. To them was born Capt. Henry[5] Dow in 1634 at Ormsby, Eng., who married Hannah Page (1641?-1704), daughter of Dea. Robert and Lucy Page of Ormsby, Eng., who came to Hampton in 1639. To Capt. Henry and Hannah Page Dow was born JABEZ[6] DOW (1672-1762), who married Esther Shaw. Their daughter, Lydia[7] Dow (1700-1766) married Philip Towle, as above stated.

The Pages.

Dea. ROBERT[2] PAGE (1604?-1672), son of ROBERT[1] and Margaret Page, of Ormsby, Eng., came to Hampton in 1639. To him and his wife Lucy were born three children who contributed to the Norris stock:
(1) THOMAS[3] PAGE (1639?-1686) in 1664 married Mary Hussey; their daughter Mary (1663-1750) married Samuel Roby, as will be noticed later.
(2) HANNAH[3] PAGE (1641?-1704) married Capt. Henry[5] Dow, as above stated.
(3) REBECCA[3] PAGE married in 1652 Capt. Wm. Marston, as will be noted later.

Esther Shaw (1666-1739), who married Jabez[6] Dow (1672-1752), was the daughter of Benjamin (1641-1717) and Esther Richardson Shaw. Benjamin Shaw was the son of Roger (--1661) and Anne Shaw who came to Cambridge, Mass., in 1636, and to Hampton in 1647?.

The Leavitt line thus included Leavitt, Bland, Sleeper, Locke, French, Berry, Blake, Dalton, Towle, Austen, Brackett, Drake, Dow, Page, Shaw, Richardson.

The Berry Name.

Where WILLIAM[1] BERRY, the first settler of Hampton, came from is unknown. He was sent by Mason to his plantation and was in Portsmouth as early as 1631. He died before June 1654. To him and his wife Jane was born JOHN[2] BERRY, the first settler of Rye, or Sandy Beach. He married Susanna---. A daughter of William[1] and Jane Berry, Elizabeth[2] , married in 1652, John Locke, and thus contributed to the Leavitt element in the Norris stock, as already noted.

WILLIAM[3] BERRY, son of John[2] and Susannah Berry, married in 1678 Judith Locke, She is believed to be Judith Hermins, widow of Nathaniel Locke, and daughter of John Hermins. The connecting link between William and Judith Hermins Berry and their supposed grandson, THOMAS[5] BERRY (1731-1799), who Dec. 19, 1754, married Abigail Lane (1734-1826), is not certain, but is believed to have been their son NATHANIEL[4] BERRY (1689-) who married an Esther ----.

The said Thomas[5] Berry lived in Greenland, N.H. Of his ten children four sons emigrated to Chichester shortly after the Revolutionary War: Capt. Joshua, Major William, Thomas Jr., and John. At the formation of the town of Pittsfield the property of the first three of these was included in the new town.

Eunice Berry Norris

Capt. Joshua[6] Berry (1755-1825) came to Chichester in 1779. He had the first gristmill in Pittsfield, at Berry Pond on Catamount Mt. The foundations of the old mill and the dam still remain. His son Joshua[7] (1783--) was a blacksmith in Pittsfield and worked the first trip-hammer in New Hampshire. Nehemiah[8] Berry (1811-1892), son of Joshua[7], was a well-known lawyer in Boston, and in turn his son, John King[9] Berry, is at present a lawyer in the same city.

Major William[6] (1766-1847) and Rachel Ward (1765-1834) Berry had eleven children. Their house was situated, and still stands, up near the crest of Catamount on the western slope, built it is said in 1785. "Ned, Tom, Bill, John, Harn, Hit, Kate, Cot, Isaiah, Gill and Abigail" was the lingo applied in derision to the children of this large family. But in their number were some very forceful men and women. Their contributions to the development of the town of Pittsfield cannot well be over-estimated. Prominent in church and business, they everywhere stood for the best of their time. Lawyers, judges, editors, statesmen, were numbered among their descendents. A son of John[7], John M., became chief-justice of Minnesota.

John[6] Berry (1780--) youngest son of Thomas[3] and Abigail Lane Berry, settled in what is now the town of Chichester. One of his children, Sarah Jane, who married Sylvester French, is still living (1915) at the age of 97.

Col. John Calvin[7] Berry, son of John[6], was the father of eleven children. Jerry Berry, so the story goes, used to stop frequently at his cousin John Calvin's. On one occasion as he drew up before the house out came the children rushing pell-mell. "How many are there of ye", he called. "One hundred" was the prompt reply. "I can count only ninety nine". "Oh", came the retort, "tother one's in the house". There was always another one in the house until the birth of the eleventh child, when the mother died.

With THOMAS[6] BERRY (1768-1847), who on Oct. 27, 1789 married his cousin, Mary Lane (1783-1833), we are more directly concerned. They removed to Pittsfield, from Greenland in 1790, and their house, built in 1802, still stands on the old farm on the eastern slope of the mountain. The records of the Congregational Church (founded in 1789) of Pittsfield show that Thomas and Mary Berry were admitted to membership in 1791. Shortly after this Thomas Berry was excommunicated, for what reason is not stated. They seem to have affiliated later with the Calvin Baptist Church.

Of their eight children only one son, Jeremiah (1791-1870), reached maturity, and his children were all daughters who seem to have left few descendants. The present day descendants of Thomas and Mary Lane Berry are chiefly thru three of their daughters: Abigail, or Nabbie (1794-1877), who married Ebenezer Thayer Drake; Polly (1805-1899) who married Reuben Cram; and Eunice (1807-1889) who married Brackett Leavitt Norris. Nabbie and Polly were the mothers of eight children each: Eunice had only two: Moses Leavitt and Brackett Woodbury. Polly was 28 and Eunice 29 years old when married, both old maids in the opinion of the times. The story goes that on one occasion they both declared that they were going to be married if they had to call on the Selectmen to furnish husbands. Shortly after each married a Selectman.

In a generation or two after the four sons of Thomas and Abigail Lane Berry emigrated from Greenland to Pittsfield their descendants had multiplied so as to be the most dominant family of the region. At one time there were over 20 taxpayers in the town of Pittsfield by the name of Berry. On one Sunday morning on a certain street corner in the village it is said that sixteen double loads of Berrys on their way to church were counted.

In the second generation there were 32 children of the four brothers; in the third generation there were 55 by the name of Berry. At present only one person by the name of Berry resides permanently in Pittsfield. At one time the Berry farms

covered nearly all of Catamount, and their substantial houses, built for large families, still stand. The Berry cemetery on Catamount is filled mostly with the descendants of Major William and Rachel Ward Berry.

EUNICE[7] BERRY in 1836 married Brackett Leavitt Norris. Six years later she was left a widow with two small children and her husband's aged father and invalid sister, on a farm not clear of debt. Here she lived and reared her boys to manhood, keeping the property intact, and sacrificing personal heirlooms rather than lose an acre of real estate. She was a famous knitter. Besides doing her housework she would knit a pair of stocks between dawn and dark, and then walk to the village and sell them for twenty five cents. Thus many and many a time did she keep the wolf from the door. The writer can remember so well seeing her knitting, the needle resting in the goosequill holder pinned on her dress front, and falling asleep, only to be awakened by a dropped stitch. A gentle ministering spirit she is still remembered thruout the country-side for her many neighborly kindnesses, altho as a contemporary said of her, "she was no bigger than a pint o' cider". After the marriage of her younger son, Woodbury, she lived in his family on the old home place. The untimely death of her daughter-in-law, Helen Carr Norris (1839-1875) left three small children in the grandmother's care. To these she devoted all her thoughts and energies. She died in August, 1889, at the age of 64, not of old age, but of hard work. A few weeks before her death the old house in which she had lived for over fifty years burned to the ground, and her last days were in the old Paul Lane house near by. In her converged some of the very choicest of the old New Hampshire stock.

The Lanes.

According to tradition William[1] Lane, cordwainer, and two brothers, cordwainers, of Beverly and Gloucester, Mass., were nephews of William Lane of Dorchester, Mass., who in 1635 came from Norfolk Co., Eng. William Lane , cordwainer, was in Boston in 1650. When he came to Hampton is uncertain. He married Mary, daughter of Thomas Brewer of Roxbury, Mass. Their son, William[2] Lane (1659-1749) married in 1680 his cousin Sarah (1661-1745), daughter of Thomas (1631-1715) and Sarah (Brewer) Webster. Thomas[2] Webster was the son of Thomas[1] Webster of Ormsby, Eng.

Dea. Joshua[3] Lane (1696-1766), son of William and Sarah Webster Lane, married Bathsheba Roby (1696-1765), daughter of Samuel (1659-1717) and Mary Page (1665-1750) Roby. Samuel Roby was the son of Judge Henry and Ruth Roby, as already described. Mary Page was the daughter of Thomas Page, brother of Hannah Page who married Capt. Henry Dow, as described in the Leavitt line. Abigail[4], daughter of Joshua and Bathsheba Roby Lane, married Thomas[5] Berry, as described in the account of the Berrys. A brother of Abigail, Jeremiah[4] Lane, married in 1759 Mary Sanborn. Their daughter Mary (1763-1838) married in 1789 her cousin, Thomas[6] Berry (1768-1847), who migrated from Greenland to Pittsfield in 1790.

The Bachelders, Sanborns and Husseys.

On June 5, 1632, there arrived in Boston on the William and Francis from London, the Rev. Stephen Bachilor (Bachelder), accompanied by his daughter, Ann, widow of John[1] Sanborn, and her children; also by his daughter Theodate, and her husband, Christopher Hussey, and Mary Hussey, mother of the latter. Mr. Bachilor became a great factor in the history of New Hampton, N.H., and is the progenitor of most of the Bachelders of the country. But unless greatly maligned his intellectual greatness was accompanied with little moral worth.

He was born in England in 1561 and thus on his arrival in America was already an aged man. For a time he had been a minister of the established church in England, but was dismissed for refusing to sanction some of the ceremonies of the church. He then went to Holland with his family and resided several years. Later he returned to

England and sailed for America as above stated.

At Lynn, Mass., he organized a church out of a few people who had been members of a church with him in England, but he was shortly accused of irregularities in conduct, arraigned before a court in Boston and forbidden to preach until some scandals were removed. However he was soon re-instated. After dissensions in his church he was again hauled into court and on promise to leave the town within three months he was discharged. After various vicissitudes in Ipswich, Yarmouth and Newbury, in 1639 he with fifteen others commenced to settle at Hampton, where he became the first pastor. He continued in Hampton until 1647, most of the time being involved in some trouble or other. Scandalous stories were reported of him, to some of which he confessed. The town was divided into two factions over him, and at this distant day it is difficult to tell how much foundation the charges against him had. In 1647 he removed to Portsmouth and in 1650 at 89 years of age, married a third wife and was fined ten pounds for some irregularity in the publishing of notices of the same. His quarrels with his wife brought him into court. He returned to England and was married to a fourth wife without a divorce from the third. He died at Hackney, Eng., about 100 years of age. He left at least seven children.

Capt. Dea. Christopher Hussey, supposed to be the son of John and Mary Wood Hussey of Dorking, Eng., went to Holland and there married Theodate, daughter of the Rev. Stephen Bachilor. With the latter he came to America. With the Rev. Bachilor and Timothy Dalton he was a leading citizen of Hampton as founder and promoter. But because of trouble over the Mason Claims he died in great poverty, at nearly ninety years of age.

Mary Hussey, daughter of Christopher and Theodate Bachilor Hussey, married the Thomas Page (1639-1686) noted in the preceding section, and became the mother of Mary Page who married Samuel Roby.

Lieut. John^{2} Sanborn, son of John^{1} and Ann Bachilor Sanborn, married Mary Tucke (--1668), daughter of Robert and Joanna Tucke who came from Gorlston, Eng., to Hampton. Their son, Joseph^{3} Sanborn (1659--) married in 1682 Mary Gove (1666--), daughter of Capt. Edward (--1691) and Hannah Titcomb Gove, of Salisbury and Hampton.

Edward Gove's origin is unknown, but there were Goves in Piscataqua as early as 1631. He was in Hampton as early as 1665. In 1683 he with a number of others were arrested on charge of treason in fomenting a rebellion against the governor of the colony, Cranfield. Gove was tried and sentenced to death, but after being confined in the Tower of London for three years, was in 1686 pardoned and set free. Upon his return his neighbors bestowed upon him the highest honors and trusts in their power.

Joseph^{4} Sanborn (1700-1773), son of Joseph^{3} and Mary Gove Sanborn, married in 1724 Susannah James (1703-1761), daughter of Benjamin and Susannah Smith James.

Benjamin James was the son of Edward James of Newbury. Susannah Smith was the daughter of John and Rebecca Marston Smith. John Smith was the son of Robert and Susannah Smith of Exeter and Hampton. Rebecca Marston was the daughter of Capt. Wm. Marston who married Rebecca Page, daughter of Robert and Lucy Page, as already noted. Capt. Wm. Marston was the son of an earlier Capt. Wm. Marston, who came to Hampton in 1640 or earlier.

Mary^{5} Sanborn, daughter of Joseph and Susannah James Sanborn, married Jeremiah Lane, and was the mother of Mary Lane (1763-1838) who married Thomas Berry (1768-1847).

The fairly complete record we have of the American ancestry of Moses Leavitt Norris is due largely to the localization of its development in and around Hampton, N.H., of which town there is a very complete history based on records very accurately kept from the times of the earliest settlements. Dow's History of Hampton is in reality a history of early south eastern New Hampshire.

The Joy stock had no such unified central development, but is diverse in origin. Of the towns to which we trace the ancestry of Lydia Ann Joy, many have as yet no accurately written history, and some have not kept the early records complete. In consequence this account of the Joy stock is very defective. Many of the gaps are due to lack of records regarding the female contributing lines.

The first record of THOMAS[1] JOY is at Boston in 1637. He is believed to have come from Norfolk Co., Eng., and to have been born about 1610. He may have been the Thomas Joy, age 25, who sailed from Gravesend for America in 1635 in the ship Constance.

He was a builder and architect. In 1637 he married Joan Gallup, daughter of Capt. John and Cristabel Gallup of Boston.

Gallup was a noted pilot, of great personal courage, and owned property in Boston and some of the harbor islands, one of which still bears his name.

Thomas Joy himself became owner of considerable property in Boston, as is shown by the "Doomsday Book". He owned a half-acre by the sea; farther inland an acre which later became the"court end" of the town; the Paul Revere House was built upon it; a third plot farther inland included perhaps the site of Faneuil Hall.

Up to 1646 he seems to have prospered in every way, but in that year he became involved in a resistance (called the Dr. Child Memorial) to an intolerant and tyrannous abuse of power on the part of the authorities. He with many others was arrested and kept in irons three or four days until for the sake of his family he submitted.

At this time only members of the Puritan Church in Boston had the right of suffrage, so that more than three fourths of the male population was excluded from the management of public affairs. The Child Memorial was a petition, first to Gov. Winthrop and associates, and on denial, to Parliament, to remedy the evil. Joy was very prominent in the agitation. All the agitators except Joy and Samuel Maverick left the colony.

In 1648 Joy removed to Hingham, Mass. where he thereafter made his home. But for many years he was in financial difficulties. In 1649 some of his property was sold under trusteeship for the benefit of his wife and children, who were in great want.

By 1656 he seems to have recovered his financial prosperity. Records of deeds show that he had kept intact most of his earlier purchases of real estate, and now he sold to great advantage. By 1658 he was in high favor with the public. In that year he built the first Town House of Boston (for 680 pounds), which stood until 1711, when it was destroyed by fire, on the site of which now stands the Old State House.

In 1658 he was enrolled as a member of "The Ancient and Honorable Artillary Company", organized in 1637 and still in existence. In 1663 the General Court ordered the remission of thirty pounds of a fine, presumably that inflicted in 1646. In 1665 he became a freeman in the colony, altho not a churchman, for in the previous year the law had been changed to admit to the franchise men who were approved by the

religious and secular authorities. Thus his earlier cause was won. In 1676 during the King Philip War he seems to have gotten into prison again for too freely criticizing the policy of the government.

He died in Hingham, Oct. 21, 1678, in the 69th(?) year of his age. His wife died in Hingham, March 20,1691.

He was an ardent lover of liberty, such that he was necessarily brought into conflict with civil and especially religious authority of his time. He is credited with planning and constructing some of the best dwellings and meeting-houses of his day. Professor John Fiske refers to him as "the excellent 17th Century architect" who "had a characteristic style".

To Thomas and Joan Gallup Joy were born ten children. Three of these have many descendants. (1) Samuel, b. Boston, 1640; d. Boston 1671. His stock divided, one branch going to Salisbury, Mass., the other to Durham, N.H. (2) Joseph, b. Boston, 1645; d. Hingham, 1697. Descendants in Hingham and Boston. (3) Ephraim, b. Boston, 1646; d. Kittery, Me., before 1699. Descendents in Maine and New Hampshire.

EPHRAIM[2] JOY was a carpenter and farmer. He went to Kittery, Me., as early as 1673, and there married before 1673 Susanna, daughter of Thomas and Patience (Chadbourne) Spencer, and widow of John Gattensby.

Thomas Spencer was sent over to Piscataque in 1630 by Mason. Patience Chadbourne was the daughter of Wm. Chadbourne who came over in the "Pied Cow" in 1634 under agreement with Mason to remain five years.

To Ephraim and Susanna Spencer Joy were born at least two children.

EPHRAIM[3] JOY, born at Kittery, married in 1703 at Dover, Sarah Nocke. He died at Berwick, Me., in 1716. He was a carpenter by occupation. In 1690 he served in garrison against the Indians.

Sarah Nocke, who married Ephraim[3] Joy, was the daughter of Sylvanus Nocke (Knox), who in 1677 married Elizabeth Emery (--1704). Sylvanus Nocke was the son of Thomas and Rebecca Tibbetts Nocke of Dover. Elizabeth Emery was the daughter of James Emery. Rebecca Tibbetts was the daughter of Henry Tibbetts of Dover.

EPHRAIM[4] JOY, baptized at South Berwick, 1710, died at Berwick in 1770. He was, like his father and grandfather, a carpenter. He married Sarah Walker, who died in 1781. To them were born 16 children.

JAMES[5] JOY, born Sept. 12, 1744, died ---, married (1) Mehitable Whitcher, who bore him seven children; (2) Mrs. Mary Hillings Thurston, who bore him five children. James Joy apparently removed from Berwick to Shapleigh for a time, at least one of his children, Richard, was born there.

Dea. RICHARD[6] JOY was born at Shapleigh, Me., in 1770, and died in Pittsfield, N.H., in 1848. At an early age he was bound out to service, but he ran away from his master and at the age of 15 went to Barnstead, N.H. He married Sally Noble (1774-1862) and to them were born four children.

Of Sarah Walker, who married Ephraim[4] Joy; of Mehitable Whitcher who married James[5] Joy; or of Sally Noble who married Richard[6] Joy, there seems to be unfortunately no authentic information. Sally Noble Joy died at the home of her granddaughter, Lydia Ann Joy Norris, in Pittsfield, in May, 1862, 88 years of age.

LEWIS[7] JOY, son of Richard and Sally Noble Joy, was born in Barnstead in 1807

and died in Pittsfield in 1899. He was a farmer and shoemaker. For a number of years he was overseer of the town poor-farm, but on the transfer of the paupers to the county poor farm in 186- he went to his farm on Leavitt Hill and resided there until his death. He was a man of spotless life and sterling integrity, abrupt of speech, but of great kindness of heart.

On April 5, 1835 he was married to Ann Parshley by the Rev. Enos George of Barnstead. Elizabeth Parshley (Walker), sister of Ann Parshley, remembers well (1914) the marriage of her sister and Lewis Joy. Lewis wore knee-breeches and had silver buckles on his shoes, but he was married in his shirt-sleeves. Elizabeth and a number of other girls, with fancy caps on their heads, served refreshments, cake and wine. While they were partaking of the repast Parson George said to Paul Parshley, father of Ann, "Paul, this tastes pretty good". "Yes", was the reply, "if I only had some bannock".

The Parshleys

The information available regarding the early Parshleys in America is very unsatisfactory. It is believed that the name of the first-comers was spelled Parsley.

RICHARD[1] PARSHLEY is said to have come from Manchester, Eng., presumably in the early part of the 18th century. His son, RICHARD[2] PARSHLEY married Debora Sloper (vital statistics in the N.H. Historical Society at Concord state that Richard Parshley and Anna Sloper, both of Barrington, were married Aug. 11, 1782.) The Parshleys seem to have settled and expanded in the towns of Barrington and Strafford. A son of Richard[2], PAUL[3] PARSHLEY, lived in Barnstead near the Pittsfield line. He married on Nov. 1, 1809, Lydia Caverly, daughter of Charles and Molly Danielson Caverly. ANN[4] PARSHLEY, daughter of Paul and Lydia Caverly Parshley, married Lewis Joy, as already mentioned.

The Caverlys.

Of the Caverlys in America we have a fairly full account. The Caverlys are to be traced back to Gospatrick of Leeds, Eng., Calverly Manor, whose daughter, Lardina, in 1116 married John Scott of Edinburg, who then added Calverly to his name.

Sir Hugh Caverly (Calverly) in 1365 was the first to use guns in the service of England. A Sir John Caverly died in the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. William Caverly in 1590 had a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Wentworth. Elder Wm. Wentworth, emigrant to Portsmouth, was one of their descendants.

The first reliable record of the Caverlys in America is of Moses[1] Caverly, born in Yorkshire, Eng., who with his brother Nathaniel and sister Elizabeth, emigrated to Portsmouth prior to 1714. They may have been children of Philip Caverly of 1680, who was a member of the jury at Portsmouth at that date. MOSES[1] CAVERLY married on Jan. 30, 1714, Margaret Cotton, daughter of John (1650?-1714) and Sarah Hearle (Earl) Cotton of Portsmouth. Sarah Hearle was the daughter of Wm. Hearle (Earl) of Portsmouth. John Cotton's father was Wm. Cotton, who is first mentioned in the Portsmouth records in 1650. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. and Honor Ham of Portsmouth. Wm. Ham came to Portsmouth about the year 1636 from Devonshire, Eng.

MOSES[2] CAVERLY was born in Portsmouth (1719-1795) but removed to Barrington. He married Hannah Johnson (--1802) of whom we know nothing.

Their son, CHARLES[3] CAVERLY, born in Barrington Dec. 15, 1760, removed to Newport, Me. He married Molly Danielson, and by her was the father of Lydia Caverly, who married Paul Parshley. Polly Caverly, sister of Lydia married Richard Parshley, brother of Paul Parshley. Elizabeth Parshley, sister of Paul and Richard married Samuel Caverly.

To Lewis (1807-1899) and Ann Parshley (1813-1891) Joy were born nine children, eight of whom lived to maturity: seven sons and one daughter.

LYDIA[8] ANN JOY, daughter of Lewis and Ann Parshley Joy, was born in Barnstead, Oct. 29, 1840, and was married at Canterbury on Sept, 21, 1861, to Moses Leavitt[7] Norris. To them were born six children, five sons and one daughter, all of whom have lived to maturity.

Lewis and Ann Parshley Joy

MOSES LEAVITT and LYDIA ANN (JOY) NORRIS were married at Canterbury, N.H. Sept. 21, 1861. Until 1870 they lived on their farm on Leavitt Hill in Pittsfield, N.H., adjoining the farm of Lewis Joy. In 1870 they removed to Grinnell, Iowa, locating first on a farm three miles east of the town, a year later on the C.V. Smith farm six and one half miles southwest of Grinnell. After renting this farm for four years, they bought a farm of 200 acres just east of the Smith farm, raw prairie. Here they lived until the year 1887, when they sold the farm, removed to the city of Grinnell and engaged in the retail hardware business until 1898. In 1902 they went to LaSalle, Colo. bought a small farm of 43 acres, irrigated land in the Platte Valley, eight miles from Greeley, where they have since lived.

Descendents: (1916)

1. HARRY WALDO NORRIS, b. Pittsfield,Sept. 11, 1862; m. June 14, 1893, at Lincoln, Nebr., Harriet Victoria (b. Sept. 18, 1868), daughter of Willard and Ellen Morgan Ruliffson, of Riga, N.Y.; and Lincoln Nebr.

A.B., 1886, Grinnell College; A.M. 1889. Graduate student, Cornell University, University of Nebraska, University of Freiburg.

Professor of Biology, Grinnell College, 1891-1903; Zoology, 1903-; Harvard Exchange Lecturer, 1914.

I. WALDO WILLARD NORRIS, b. Grinnell, March 31, 1894. Senior, Grinnell College.

II. GENEVIEVE EUGENIA NORRIS, b. Sept. 24, 1897 at Grinnell. Sophomore, Grinnell College.

III. SELDEN HARMON NORRIS, b. Grinnell, Nov. 5, 1898.

2. CHARLES BRACKETT NORRIS, b. Pittsfield, Aug. 22, 1866; m. at Grinnell, Oct. , 1892, Nellie (b. June 12, 1868), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Ensminger of Grinnell.

Student Grinnell College; hardware business Grinnell; farmer LaSalle, Colo. 1893-.

I. HAROLD JOY NORRIS, b. Grinnell, June 12, 1893, d. LaSalle, Colo., Aug. 28, 1895.

II. VALEDA GERTRUDE NORRIS, b. LaSalle, Sept, 28, 1896. Sophomore, Colorado College.

III. ROLAND WILBUR NORRIS, b. LaSalle, Sept. 8, 1899; d. Apr. 20, 1904.

IV. MILDRED MARCELLA NORRIS, b. LaSalle, Colo., Dec. 20, 1900.

V. "BABY" NORRIS, b. Nov. 1903, d. Feb., 1904.

VI. NORMA NEIMA NORRIS, b. June 1, 1910.

3. ARTHUR CLARENCE NORRIS, b. Pittsfield, May 27, 1868.

Student Grinnell College; Hardware business; Captain U.S. Volunteers Spanish-American War; Major of regiment; post-office clerk 1898-1911; Postmaster Grinnell, 1911-1915; Mayor Grinnell 1915-1917; Manufacturer Panorama cameras, Grinnell.

Married (1) May 27, 1890, Nellie, daughter of William and Jane Haddock Raffety of Grinnell (b. Aug. 22, 1869; d. Sept. 1, 1898).

I. RENNA GERTRUDE NORRIS, b. Grinnell, March 6, 1891.

A.B., Grinnell College, 1911; Teacher and principal of schools, Greeley and LaSalle, Colo., 1911-1916; m. June 15, 1916, Arthur James Whitford, of Iron River, Mich.

II. ARTHUR WENDELL NORRIS, b. Grinnell, Oct. 14, 1895. Student University of Colorado.

Married (2) June 4, 1901, Jennie, daughter of William and Jane Haddock Raffety (b. March 26, 1878).

4. MOSES LEAVITT NORRIS, JR., born Jasper Co., Ia., Jan. 2, 1874; m. at Grinnell, Sept. 16, 1896, Frances (b. Oct. 6, 1868), daughter of Justus and Sarah Carpenter Worcester.

Hardware business; postoffice clerk.

I. RAYMOND LEAVITT NORRIS, b. Grinnell, March 30, 1898.

II. OTHELLO JUDSON NORRIS, b. " Aug. 25, 1899.

III. ELLEN ANN NORRIS, b. " Dec. 27, 1901.

IV. FLORENCE MAY NORRIS, b. " Apr. 4, 1904.

V. CHARLES LEONARD NORRIS, b. " Feb. 3, 1907.

VI. LYMAN WORCESTER NORRIS, b. Grinnell, July 16, 1911.

VII. MARTHA MARIA NORRIS, b. " Nov. 20, 1915.

5. GERTRUDE ELLEN NORRIS, b. Jasper Co., Ia., Nov. 23, 1876.

A.B. Grinnell College, 1897. Teacher in high schools (Latin and German), State Center, Ia., Sigourney, Ia., Grinnell, Ia., Greeley, Col., Ft. Collins, Col.

6. ERNEST CALVIN NORRIS, b. Jasper Co., Ia., Jan. 6, 1879; m. LaSalle, Col., Dec. 1904, Esther E. Jay.

Student Grinnell College; farmer LaSalle, Col.

I. DONALD ORVILLE NORRIS, b. Sept, 23, 1905.

II. LOIS E. NORRIS, b. LaSalle, Aug. 10, 1908.

Moses Leavitt and Lydia Ann Joy Norris
Sept. 21, 1861 Sept. 21, 1911

REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS in the Norris-Joy Ancestry.

There seems to be little evidence, either in record or in tradition that, the Moses Norris (one or more) who was in the Revolutionary War, was Moses[4] (1732-1776?) or Moses[5] (1762-1848). Moses was a very common name among the Norrises.

James Joy of Berwick, Me., is mentioned in Mass. Soldiers & Sailors in Rev. War, vol. III, p. 1013, as a private in Capt. John Goodwin's company in Major Daniel Littlefield's Detachment of York Co. Militia, detached July 1, 1779, discharged Sept. 1, 1779, Service two months, in Penobscot Expedition. This was James[3] (1744-).

There were several Thomas Berrys in the War, but not Thomas[5] (1731-1799) or Thomas[6] (1768-1847).

Charles[3] Caverly is mentioned in Hammond's Revolutionary Rolls of N.H., vol. II, p. 749, as among the Portsmouth men in Capt. Beighton's company, Col. Scammon's Regt. of Massachusetts Soldiers enlisted May 5, 1775.

On page 747 of the same volume is mentioned Richard Parshley of Barrington, as in Capt. William H. Ballard's company of Col. James Fay's Regt., Mass. Revolutionary Soldiers.

There were several Benjamin Leavitts in the War. On page 678, vol. III, Hammond's Rev. Rolls, is recorded a receipt given by Benjamin Leavitt, Sept, 8, 1782, to the Selectmen of Hampton Falls for pay for three months service in 1781. Benjamin, father of Comfort Leavitt, who married Moses Norris, was from Hampton Falls.

It seems impossible to prove that any of the Daniel Gordons in the War were in the ancestry of Moses Leavitt Norris.

Sources of the information compiled in the foregoing pages:

Genealogies:

The Norris Family in America.--Morrison
Thomas Joy and his Descendants--Joy.
Genealogy of the Caverly Family.
Descendants of the Rev. Stephen Batchelder,--Pierce.
Lane Family--Chapman and Fitts.

Town Histories:

Barnstead, N.H.
Exeter--Bell
Gilmanton--Lancaster
Hampton Falls--Brown
Hampton--Dow
Haverhill--Bittinger
Hingham, Mass.
Old Kittery--Stackpole
Nottingham, Deerfield and Northwood--Cogswell
Raymond--Fullonton
Rye--Parsons
Salem, N.H.--Gilbert
Windham--Morrison
Pittsfield--Town Clerk's Records
Pittsfield--Congregational Church Records
N.H. Historical Soc. Concord, N.H.
Personal recollections of Hiram Parshley, Strafford, N.H.

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